



## PRESS RELEASE

14 June 2022

### **ArtBomb 22: Doncaster's Experimental Arts Festival To Highlight Climate Emergency**

**ArtBomb 22: *Alternative Ecologies*  
11 - 14 August 2022**

ArtBomb 22, Doncaster's experimental arts festival, is designed to provoke fierce debate across current environmental and ecological thinking.

ArtBomb 22 playfully and provocatively explores the life of PLANTS, FOOD, WATER and TRANSPORT and their role in the health and well-being of local communities and in a global context.

Now in its second year, ArtBomb's approach is to foster local creative talent and emerging practitioners, alongside established international artists to highlight the most pressing issue of our time: GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY. **ArtBomb 22** is an open-platform arts festival commissioning world-class art to spill onto the street and spread across public space, sparking discussion, forming new ideas and fostering a sense of curiosity with a programme of workshops, talks, performances, gigs, films and exhibitions across multiple sites.

ArtBomb's local team of curators and producers is led by *Doncaster Creates* creative director and artist, Mike Stubbs, and builds on the success of last year's first festival to present a creative provocation that centres on the local ecology and explores the impact of the climate emergency. The festival will ask important questions about how these global issues can be addressed locally:

- How resilient are our communities to the impacts of climate change?
- How do we recognise ourselves as being part of a global ecological system?

- How can people take action to promote biodiversity such as: reducing emissions; reducing car usage, reducing household waste, saving natural habitats and ensuring further restoration of our peatlands?

ArtBomb has invited more than 30 artists to work alongside a wide range of environmentalists to explore cutting edge ecological research and provocation including signposting Doncaster's most valuable ecological asset - its vast peatland - and the biodiversity it supports. Internationally significant artists include: feminist/anarchist, mezzo-soprano, **Loré Lixenberg**, reciter of Beckett and Shakespeare, performance artist, **Filipos Tsitsopoulos**, live coder and choreographer **Joana Chicau**. Bee-keeper-Techno DJ Bioni Samp who featured in Vice last year as their artist of the year.

Artists also include: **Chris Dobrowolski; Antony Hall; Jola Kudela; Rob La Fresnais; Dave Lynch; Matthew Rosier; Sydney Sparks; Yu-chen Wang** and **Miranda Whall**, alongside artists from the ArtBomb 22 residencies: **Re-Wilding the System** and **Symbiosis - The Art of Living with Water**.

Re-Wilding the System artists include: **Caroline Sinderson; David Bramwell; Rebecca Smith; Angela Robson, Brigitte Sossou Perenyl**

Symbiosis artists include: **Annie Carpenter; Zoyander Street; Adrian Barron; Teresa Saynor; Ted Webley; Sarah Villeneuve; Molly Shaw; Jennifer Rozenfelds; Janet Wallace**

**ArtBomb's lead curator, Mike Stubbs commented:**

"ArtBomb Festival 22 is asking the urgent questions that will challenge complacency and ensure that Doncaster and its communities can explore and debate the climate emergency. Working with emerging and established artists, both local and international, the festival showcases the work of artists in collaboration with environmentalists and celebrate their challenging vision and ambition within one of the UK's newest cities and its environs and beyond."

**Project Director Arts, Culture & Heritage. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Kate Brindley commented:**

"Experimental arts festival, ArtBomb 22 is demonstrating exactly why Doncaster deserves its city status and why it is making a great contribution to South Yorkshire's cultural programme. I look forward to seeing what the artists and environmentalists have been working on."

**Cllr Nigel Ball, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Planning commented:**

"ArtBomb 22 brings a vital spark to Doncaster's burgeoning culture calendar and this year's theme is one that encourages our communities to engage with the ecological future of Doncaster region in a highly creative and fun platform involving local artists and communities as well as those from further afield. I look forward to experiencing it in August."

## **Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones commented:**

“I welcome ArtBomb’s innovative and creative focus on what could be done to help us all be more proactive in developing Doncaster’s ecological agenda. We know we are in a race against time and the more we can do to drive debate and share best practice the stronger and more resilient our communities can be in the future.”

ArtBomb’s programme of residencies and commissions begins from the ArtBomb Hub at 60 Hallgate and will spill into the streets and urban space to provide a rich and compelling mix of experiences designed to surprise and entertain as well as highlight the climate emergency.

ArtBomb 22 includes the following projects:

- **Re-Wilding the System**, a lab-based residency scheme in which artists research experimental work alongside ecologists and environmental scientists
- **Symbiosis - The Art of Living with Water**, a collaborative platform for artists, scientists and alternative thinkers supported by bursaries to explore the theme of art, science and water in Doncaster
- **The Future of Transportation**, a curated programme of international artists’ responses to the future of public and ecologically-sustainable transport
- **Wild Weeds - Dandelion Café**, a mini-residency which coincided with Mental Health Week led by Monika Dutta, artist and grower in collaboration with local artists. Foraging, food preparation and thinking about nature and our relationship with it

These form part of ArtBomb’s ambition to support a **regional arts and ecology lab** in the North-East. The various strands of the programme combine to ask urgent questions about Doncaster’s relationship to the environment, arts and ecology, culminating in **Artbomb 22: Alternative Ecologies, 11 - 14 August**.

Alongside its core programme ArtBomb is piloting a series of experiments in public space and place-making, including: a significant new mural on Cleveland Street by street artist **Jola**, and a semi-permanent interactive light installation at Waterdale by award-winning artist **Matthew Rosier**.

**Press and Media Launch: 5 July, 12 Noon at ArtBomb Hub, 60 Hallgate, Doncaster**

Find out more at [www.artbombfestival.com](http://www.artbombfestival.com)

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## **Editor's Notes:**

### **About ArtBomb 22:**

ArtBomb 22 is Doncaster's experimental arts festival:  
ArtBomb 22: Alternative Ecologies, 11 - 14 August 2022

[www.artbombfestival.com](http://www.artbombfestival.com)

### **About ArtBomb:**

ArtBomb is a multi-purpose space for emerging artists, residencies, creative start-ups and home to Doncaster's experimental arts festival of the same name. Situated around Doncaster's hidden architectural and cultural jewel, the Unitarian Church on Hallgate, ArtBomb aims to spark discussion, challenge ideas and foster a new sense of curiosity.

It is an open platform engaging with artists of all experiences; co-producing, sharing and making art through experimental performance, installations, music, film screenings, workshops and everything in between. Our space starts from within by utilising the shop windows, and spills out into the courtyard and pavement to interact with the world beyond our inner bubble.

ArtBomb has a focus on arts and ecology, and with a new generation of diverse creative practitioners, ArtBomb also fosters the growth of emerging creative producers. By providing live mentorship and talent development, students and curators join us in thinking about our future needs, sustainability through art and how to collaborate with people from different backgrounds and disciplines.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtBombFest/>

<https://twitter.com/ArtBombFest>

<https://www.instagram.com/artbombfest/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0gAFK6JYx35P3AuTD-GJ7A>

### **The ArtBomb Hub**

Located in the heart of Doncaster town centre at 60 Hallgate, the ArtBomb Hub functions as a physical home and a welcoming place where the public can explore and join in conversations about art. The hub functions as:

- A host space for artist residencies and workshops
- A space for talks, performances and gigs
- A creative hub supporting local organisations and startups, including Print Imperials, Doncopolitan, SFC and Good to Glo
- A space for talent development, where emerging local talent can make, tinker and explore ideas alongside established and international artists
- A vibrant home to ArtBomb 22

- An experimental space leading and partnering on development of an Arts Quarter in Doncaster.

The Artists for ArtBomb 22:

The four artists selected from an open-call by a panel of local experts, are:

**Doncaster Brigitte Perenyi** (She/Her): an award-winning documentary story producer, director and cultural translator, helping international media agencies and development organisations step away from narratives of victimhood and unequal power dynamics to tell stories that connect to the human heart. Born in Togo, West Africa, her career in filmmaking started in Ghana. Her first documentary film 'My Stolen Childhood,' commissioned by the BBC, has had over 3.5 million views on YouTube. She has travelled and worked in over six West African countries, Kenya, parts of Europe and the US. In November 2019, the BBC named her one of the most inspiring women in the world. She will be collaborating on her project, to be filmed in Doncaster and West Africa, with the award-winning film-maker and writer, **Angela Robson** (She/Her).

**Yorkshire Rebecca 'Bec' Smith** (She/Her): an interdisciplinary artist, whose work fuses hand-crafted art-forms with digital technologies. Rebecca's practice centres around the natural environment, and our place within it. Her work has been viewed throughout the UK and internationally, including The Saatchi Gallery, Tate, The Royal Academy of Arts and The Royal Albert Hall, yet is equally at home on the streets and in unusual outdoor locations. Her diverse digital skills traverse electronic music production, large-scale projection mapping and immersive art environments, and augmented reality. Rebecca is a socially engaged artist, mentor and active advocate for women and the LGBTQ+ community in the arts, and technology. She often works collaboratively. <https://www.urbanprojections.com/>

**Doncaster/Brighton David Bramwell** (He/Him): a Sony Award-winning BBC broadcaster, performer and author of several books, including The No9 Bus to Utopia and The Haunted Moustache. Having grown up in Donny from the age of six, the town and its river have featured in his work. His latest show and book, The Cult of Water, is a magical journey up the Don to its source in search of Danu, the water goddess who gave her name to both town and river. [www.drbramwell.com](http://www.drbramwell.com)

**London/USA Caroline Sinderson** (She/Her): an award winning critical designer, researcher, and artist. Examining the intersections of artificial intelligence, intersectional justice, systems design, harm, and politics in digital conversational spaces and technology platforms, Sinderson has worked with the United Nations, Amnesty International, IBM Watson and the Wikimedia Foundation. She has held fellowships with the Harvard Kennedy School, Google's PAIR (People and Artificial Intelligence Research group), Ars Electronica's AI Lab, the Mozilla Foundation, Pioneer Works, Eyebeam, Ars Electronica, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her work has been featured in the Tate Exchange in Tate Modern, the Contemporary Art Center of New Orleans, Telematic Media Arts, Victoria and Albert Museum, MoMA PS1, and many more. <https://carolinesinders.com/>

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